

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and systems preserving data in a data storage system are described. In one aspect of the invention, the exemplary process includes receiving a command to preserve data in a data storage system, executing for a first data a first I/O (input/output) process directed to a first storage volume wherein the first I/O process begins at a first time which is prior to receiving the command, creating a data structure, in response to the command, for at least a second image which corresponds to a second storage volume, writing a second data directed to the first storage volume as part of a second I/O process which begins after the first time, and determining from the data structure whether data corresponding to the second data is stored in the second image and if it is, modifying the data structure to indicate that the second data is not stored in the second image and storing the second data in the first image. Other methods and apparatuses are also described.